

# Goat Project Guide

Helpful information for your goat project (Richwood version)

There are several goat projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Here's a brief summary of each project:

#	Title	Description
135BD	Breeding: Dairy	Raise a goat of a Dairy breed (example: Alpine, Saanen) For breeding or production purposes
135BM	Breeding: Meat	Raise a goat of a Meat breed (ex; Boer, Kiko) for breeding or production purposes. Classes are available for Does (females) only, bucks are not shown at Richwood Fair
135F	Fiber	Raise a goat of a Fiber breed (ex; Angora)
135H	Harness	Train a goat for use as a Harness goat
135M	Market	Raise a goat of a meat breed to harvest weight
135P	Pack	Train a goat for use as a Pack animal
135PY	Pygmy	Raise a goat of a Pygmy Breed (ex: Nigerian dwarf)
135C	Companion	Raise any breed of goat as a pet. Note: This goat project does not participate in the Goat Show, instead can participate in Special Interest Judging, and does not stay in the Goat Barn during Fair.

## Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your goat project:

- **Goat Project Handbook** (\$17) Designed to be used for all years of your goat projects
- **Goat Project and Record Book**, (\$8) Obtain and keep for the resource info it contains. Note: do not use for your annual record keeping.
- **Union County Livestock Project Record Book** (free) Download this document and use as your Record book for your project. Keep a new one each year.

In Summary: obtain the first two books listed above and keep and use them for all years you are taking a Goat Project. Each year: download a new Livestock Record book and use it to keep your annual project records.

Note to those with Market Animal Projects; as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Union County Livestock Record Book to keep this information.



### **Participation in Richwood Junior Fair**

If you are interested in exhibiting a goat project at the Richwood Fair,

You need to know and meet the exhibition requirements. Basic exhibition requirements include:

- You must participate annually in Livestock Quality Assurance Education, by the deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- You must be a member in good standing of your 4-H Club: meaning attending a minimum of 5 meetings, doing a demonstration, etc.
- You must own your animal(s) by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- All goats, of every kind, MUST have a Scrapie tag.

The breeder should have the scrapie tag in the goat's ear before you take possession. (Do NOT buy a goat without a Scrapie tag). This tag has a State-premise ID-individual goat number. Ex: OH 7884 0400

- For market goats; you must register your animals (submit scrapie ID and photos) online by the deadline of June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- In coordination with your 4-H Advisor you must submit a Fair entry card by the Fair entry deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Richwood Fair offers classes for all goat projects.

### **Market Goat Classes**

- The Richwood Fair has classes for both market does (females) and market wethers (castrated males). You can show up to 2 market does and up to 2 market wethers, for a maximum of 4 total market goats.
- For both Market Does and Wethers: the Champion and Reserve Champion animals are terminal, meaning they must go to market.
- Market does and wethers are weighed on the first day of the fair and classes are divided by weight.

### **Additional Requirements for market goats**

- Repeat: You must register ("tag in") your goat(s) online by June 8.
- All market goats must be dehorned. Dehorning should be done at about 10 days of age so be sure your goat is already dehorned if you are purchasing versus raising your own. If you notice the horns growing back, keep them trimmed back frequently with hoof trimmers.
- Regrowth (scurs) of horns greater than 1 inch will make goats ineligible to show.
- Market goats must be between 55-120 pounds to show.

### **Additional information for Breeding goats:**

- Must have a scrapie tag (will be checked by USDA)
- Shown by age, not weight, and are not weighed in.
- Goats may be horned.
- Breeding females will be retained by the showmen and not sold through the Junior Fair Sale.

### **Basics for your goat project:**

- Your 4-H Advisor can provide a list of possible sources of animals.
- It is highly advisable to seek out a reputable breeder to obtain your project animal. A good breeder wants you to be successful with your project and with the animal(s) they are offering. It is not advisable to look toward sale barns (stockyards) for project animals as you will not know the breed, health status or anything else about the animal you are getting. Again, do not buy a goat from ANY source that does not have a Scrapies tag in its ear (it is federal law for the breeder to apply this tag).
- For market goats: it's important to choose an animal of the correct size and growth potential so that it can meet the required weight range to show at Richwood Fair (55-120 pounds). You will want to select a meat breed goat for a market project. The most common meat breed in Ohio is Boer. It is not advisable to select a dairy breed or dairy cross breed animal for a market project.
- For breeding and specialty goats you will want to choose an animal that fits your project goals. If you want to show your animal, you'll want to make sure there is a class offered for the animal you are considering.

#### **When selecting market animals:**

- Look for a goat kid that is square on their legs, straight (not sway) backed, wide chested, front legs set squarely down from their shoulder and wide in rear leg set.
- Check birth date but with goat kids birth date must be considered alongside other factors such as genetics, nutrition, exercise, etc. Example: a single kid with a good milking Doe (mother) will grow much faster than a triplet kid that is getting limited nutrition.
- A rule of thumb is that a goat will gain about 1/3 of pound per day, or, 10 pounds per month. However, this is largely influenced by type and quality of feed and other factors.
- Example: to have an 85 lb goat on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> you would look for a 45 lb goat on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Again, this is a rough estimate that can be influenced by many factors.
- Check for lice and mites when getting your goat and treat if needed to keep the hair quality of your animal good.
- A healthy goat kid should be alert, curious and move easily. Avoid a goat kid that stands in the corner, is hunched up as it stands, tail drooped, or moves lethargically.

#### **Housing:**

- Some type of shelter to keep goats out of the elements. Ventilation is key for keeping them healthy in the summertime, but you also want to have protection from wind, rain and sun.
- You will want a pen that provides room for exercise but is not so big that the goats are difficult to catch. 6' x 6' would be adequate, 10' x 10' would be ideal. Your goats do not "need" to be on grass or pasture. In fact, it is easier to control feed intake and keep them free of parasites if they are not on grass.
- Bedding: Straw or shavings. Shavings work better to manage the size of their belly for show as the goats will not eat the shavings as much. Clean pens regularly. Wet, dirty bedding is not ideal. At the fair, you must bed with shavings.

#### **Feeding:**

- You will need a water bucket and 1 feeder per goat. Water needs to be changed out multiple times per day. Clean the feeders out after every feeding. Goats will not eat old, dirty feed.
- There are many types of quality show feeds available locally. Talk to your breeder to see what they recommend. Freshness is very important. Goats will eat 3-4% of their body weight per day. A good place to start is 1 pound of feed, twice a day for each goat. Market goats only need a small handful of hay 1-2 times per day.

#### **Training your goat to show:**

- You will need a halter for each goat and show chain, look for a chain that has small prongs (available through Weaver Livestock and other vendors).
- Start by putting a halter on your goat and tying them up in their pen. Keep them tied for 20-30 minutes at first, then work up to an hour. NEVER leave your goat unattended while tied. After they get used to standing while tied, you can start leading them. Don't pull hard or battle them to lead. Goats are very stubborn. Walk beside or behind them at first. Patience pays off. After the goat is comfortable walking with the halter, start putting the show chain on them to lead. Take them on short walks daily. Practice stopping and setting their legs as you would in the show ring occasionally. The earlier you start training your goat to lead, the better. It is best if you start about a week after you get your project home.
- If you have a grooming stand (highly recommended), it can be beneficial for the goat to practice standing with their legs set in place and their head up to prepare for the show ring.
- Establish a routine of walking and showmanship routine daily. Even if you are short on time 15 minutes of practice can make a huge difference.

#### **Preparing your goat to show:**

- You will want to clip your goat 5-7 days prior to show day. The goat needs to be clean and dry before you start to clip. You will want to clip all the hair above the knee and hock, including the head. Leave the hair below the knee and hock on the lower part of the leg. If using Lister (most common brand) or another "Laser" type clipper, you will want to use medium or covercote length blades to clip them. These can all be purchased online, but you may find them locally as well. Prepare early so you have what you need when the time comes.
- Trim their hooves prior to 5-7 days prior to show day, and also throughout the duration of the project. Hooves in poor condition can lead to other feet and leg issues. Take care to not trim their hooves too close.
- On show day you will want to have your goat freshly washed and clean. Take your time to make sure you have cleaned everywhere, scrub the hooves, ear tag is clean etc. The details matter. Be careful to not get water in the ears.

#### **Health Care**

- It is your responsibility as an animal owner and/or food animal producer to establish a relationship with a veterinarian, in order to help with health care decisions for your animal. Your 4-H Advisor may be able to provide suggestions about veterinarians in the area that provide services for goats. You can also seek suggestions from other goat owners.
- Do NOT seek animal medical advice from farm store clerks, neighbors, other goat owners, breeders, etc. Experienced goat owners may be able to guide you in many areas, but if your animal needs veterinary care; it is your responsibility to provide proper care for your animal.

#### **Fair Entries and Fair Rules**

4-H Advisor coordinate the submission of Fair entry cards. Discussion of and completion of Fair entry cards will likely take place at one of your club meetings (another reason it is very important to attend meetings). It is your responsibility to communicate with your 4-H Advisor about what you want to enter in the Fair and the details of your entry (example; breed and age of your breeding goat entry).

Richwood Junior Fair entries are due to the Fair Board on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, completing entry cards will take place in July. Your Advisor will be able to answer questions about the Fair entry process.

When you choose to become a Jr Fair Exhibitor; you are responsible for knowing the general Fair rules and the Department rules for the project you are exhibiting. These can be found on the Richwood Fair website or in the fair paper under Jr Fair Rules.

You should also be familiar with Ohio Revised Code Sections 901.70, 901.71, 901.72, 901.73, 901.74, 901.75, 901.76, 901.99 and 2925.94. These govern all livestock shows in the state of Ohio.

It is important to note that at the fair, the only people permitted to care for, fit, clip, or groom your animal are your immediate family members, 4H advisors, or other members of your club and assistance is limited to explanation and minimal demonstration (ORC 901.19.31).

### **Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF)**

If you are exhibiting a Market animal you are required, by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to submit a DUNF immediately prior to the Fair. This form requires you to declare the use of any medication that has been given to your animal. An online link will be sent to you by email to use for completing your form. You are not eligible to exhibit a market animal until this form is submitted to ODA.

### **Activities that will take place at the Fair**

The following Fair related activities are described below: Arrival/departure, Barn Meeting, Weigh-in, Classes Posted, Skillathon, Showmanship and Show, Jr Fair Sale

### **Arrival & Departure**

Check the Fair Schedule and/or ask your Advisor to confirm the window of time you must arrive with your animal to the Fairgrounds. Upon arrival, find your assigned pen and unload your goats efficiently so as not to create a line. There are Barn Superintendents in the Barn on arrival day to answer questions.

If you are not going to sell your goat through the Jr Fair Livestock Sale; check the time that animals are released at the end of Fair week; meaning this is the time you can re-load and take your animal home.

### **Barn Meeting**

Check the Fair Schedule for the time of the Barn Meeting. Usually, a Barn Meeting for all Exhibitors will be held on Wednesday morning of the Fair, prior to weigh in.

### **Weigh-In**

Only market animals are weighed.

Check the Fair Schedule, and listen at the Barn meeting, for the weigh in time for market goats. You MUST bring your goat(s) to the scales at the correct time to be eligible to show. There will be Barn Superintendents in the Barn to direct and help you get to the scales, but you MUST be present to get your goat(s) weighed. Your picture will also be taken with your goat during weigh in.

### **Classes Posted**

Once all goats are weighed classes will be created by dividing the does and wethers in approximately equal size classes based on their weights. These Classes will be posted on the Goat Barn bulletin board. It is your responsibility to review the Class posting for accuracy. Check to see that the gender, ear tag number, and weight are correct. If you have questions about the Class Posting contact the Jr Fair Board office immediately for assistance.

### **Showmanship and Show Classes**

There are 3 different types of Classes within the Goat Show:

1. Showmanship Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the showmanship skills of the Exhibitor (you!). These classes are therefore divided by the age of the exhibitor. These classes will be posted in the Goat Barn. Check the posting for accuracy.

Participation in your Showmanship class is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

2. Breeding and Specialty Goat Classes

Each breeding and specialty class that has an entry will be part of the show.

For example: if there are entries in the Meat division goat kid class this class will appear on the posting of the order of show. Usually, these classes are shown between the Showmanship Classes and Market classes.

3. Market Doe and Market Wether Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the conformation of the goat. These classes are divided by the weight of the goat. Following weigh-in, these classes will be posted in the Goat Barn. Check the posting to see which Class you are in. It is required to participate in showing your goat to be eligible for awards and to be eligible to sell your goat in the Jr Fair Livestock Sale.

The Goat Show will begin with Showmanship Classes, then Breeding and Specialty classes, followed by Market Classes. Check the Barn Bulletin Board and listen for announcements on Show Day for any updates.

### **Skillathon**

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show who knows the most about their species. You will study various topics on goats and at the fair, you will go into the skillathon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are typically 3 levels: juniors (8-10 years old), intermediates (11-13 years old), and seniors (14-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn outstanding ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Goat Skillathon is an activity that takes place at the Fair. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your Goat project. The goal of the Skillathon is to facilitate learning about your Goat project and practice other life skills (interviewing for example). It is *expected* that you participate in the Goat Skillathon.
- A Goat Skillathon Study Guide is available which outlines what each topic and station in the Skillathon will be about. The Study Guide can be found on the Union County 4-H web site:  
<https://union.osu.edu/program-areas/4-H-youth-development/study-guides-skillathon-information>
- Information for the Goat Skillathon can be found in your Goat Resource Handbook or is attached to the Study Guide.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who do well in the Skillathon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes.

### **Premier Exhibitor Award Qualifications**

- Premier Exhibitor is an award given to 1 Exhibitor per specie which recognizes the individual which has the best overall Combination of Skillathon score (40%), Showmanship (40%), market class placing (20%).
- To be eligible an exhibitor must; show a market animal project, participate in Skillathon, and participate in Showmanship.

### **Jr Fair Livestock Sale**

The Richwood Fair Jr Fair Livestock Sale is held on Monday, the last day of the Fair.

Exhibitors with market animals are eligible to sell ONE animal through the Jr Fair Sale, if they have met eligibility criteria (shown their animal, animal is within correct weight range, turned in Sale Designation form on time, etc).

During the Goat Show: Sale Designation Forms will be made available to all Exhibitors. If you want to sell a goat through the Jr Fair Sale, you must complete the Sale Designation Form, indicating which goat you want to place in the Jr Fair Sale, and turn in the Form by the end of the Goat Show.

You MUST be present during the Jr Fair Sale on Monday in order to sell your goat.

A Sale Catalog (list of animals for sale) will be created and posted. It is generally posted in the Barn on Sunday of the Fair. Check the posted Catalog to see where you are in the Sale order so you can be ready.

Once your animal is sold through the Sale; the Sale Committee will handle loading and transporting your animal on behalf of the buyer. Your responsibility is to keep your animal watered and comfortable until it is loaded, and to clean your pen once the animal is loaded.

**Extra Animals;** Many exhibitors will have an “extra” animal or 2, because you can only sell one animal through the Jr Fair Livestock Sale. It is your responsibility to decide and make arrangements for your extra animal(s). Options usually include:

- Take the animal home
- Sell the animal to the Re-sale bidder arranged by the Sale Committee. To do this you will complete a form, in the Jr Fair Office. The market price being offered will be posted there.
- Sell the animal privately. You would be entirely responsible for loading, transportation and all other aspects of the sale if you sell your extra animals privately

### **Finishing your goat project**

When the project year is concluded its time to thank the people that have helped you with your project. It's a great idea to send thank you notes to:

- the buyer of your animal if you participated in the Jr Fair Sale
- Your 4-H Advisors
- Other folks who helped you with your project (helped clip your goat for example)
- The sponsors of any awards, ribbons, banners, or other recognition you received